



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN W. HETHERINGTON
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MEMBER
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Testimony

Opposition to Section 2 of Raised Bill 92

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION OF UNUSED MEDICATION.

Environment Committee

February 22, 2012

Dear Senators Meyer and Roraback and Representatives Roy and Chapin and members of the Environment Committee:

I respectfully express my opposition to Section 2 of Raised Bill 92, which would impose an unfunded mandate on municipalities to create a program for the collection of unwanted pharmaceuticals.

1. The proposed legislation would place an undetermined financial burden on municipalities and their taxpayers at a time of continuing economic stress.

It is noted that there is as yet no fiscal note, making it impossible even to estimate the extent of the financial burden on municipalities.

2. There is no demonstrated need to impose a mandatory program.

It has been my good fortune personally to work with community activists in and around my district to create a collection program that is now in successful operation. Similar programs are steadily coming on line in towns around the state. Each benefits from the experience of others and is adapted to the particular needs and circumstances of the local community. These initiatives are working and there is no reason to believe that the goals of a collection program will be better achieved, and in fact even may be hindered, by the imposition of a statutory mandate and attending web of regulation.

It is reported that collection programs exist in most states. Significantly, no state has been found where state law mandates a program.

As a matter of note, the existing programs in Connecticut involve the federal Drug Enforcement Agency and the state Department of Consumer Protection. Curiously, the proposed legislation makes no reference to these agencies, suggesting that the existing working relationships would be replaced or supplemented and perhaps complicated by the introduction of other authorities for no express reason.

In summary, Section 2 of raised bill 92 would impose an unfunded mandate of unknown magnitude on municipalities that remain financially stressed, and is unsupported by a demonstrated need for a mandated program. The Committee is therefore urged to reject the provisions of this section.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JH' with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

John Hetherington
State Representative